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tions, and I greatly regret that the subject has not been adequately discussed in England. We followed a phrase blindly and accepted the phrase without looking carefully to see what is behind it. The League of Nations, as I understand it, is not an end in itself, it is merely a means to an end, and the end that we seek to attain is the avoidance of war. We all of us agree that unless we can find some means by which war can be averted, war will destroy civilization."

Article 10 is criticized, not with the rather vague idea that a member may thereby be bound to yield a portion of its sovereignty, but on the definite ground that "a nation may be content to rest under an obligation, onerous though it be, to join in guaranteeing the '*status quo*' where it is clear that the '*status quo*' is, under all the circumstances, just and reasonable. But supposing it should become clear that the '*status quo*' is unjust or unreasonable, how can all the Members of the League be expected contentedly to remain under a permanent obligation to support it?"

The general requirement of unanimity as a condition of action by either the Council or the Assembly is demonstrated to be a most serious defect. If eight of the nine Members of the League represented on the Council (including, of course, all the Great Powers) desired the League to take some action of great importance, but the remaining one of the nine Members of the Council (Greece, for example) objected to the proposed action, the undertaking would have to be given up unless the objecting member could be persuaded to assent. It is not voting power, but veto power, that is to be feared.

One has only to read the striking paper of Mr. C. A. McCurdy, K. C., to realize what vagueness of expression and confusion of thought have attended political discussion of the League of Nations in both countries, and how colossal an undertaking it is to transform what is now little more than an aspiration, into a working agreement among nations. "A League of Nations which will be effectual to rid the world of war will rest, not upon any agreement, but upon a creed." But the optimist will say it may not be impossible to combine the agreement with the creed.

The study of International Law has been sadly neglected in the United States. This may explain many things our generous kinsmen find it difficult to understand. Papers and discussions such as those of the Grotius Society powerfully stimulate interest in this increasingly important subject. The published transactions of the Society will always be found in the law library of the University of Pennsylvania; it is hoped the attention of students will be drawn to the desirability of studying them. Then, too, it is a long way from Philadelphia to King's Bench Walk and Fountain Court and this is one method of overcoming distance.

R. Stuart Smith

PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL IN GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES DURING THE WORLD WAR, by Simon Litman, Professor of Economics, University of Illinois. Preliminary Economic Studies of the War; Carnegie Endowment of International Peace. New York, Oxford University Press. 1920, pp. 331.

What were the principal changes in prices during the war period? What were the chief causes of these changes? What were the methods pursued by

the governments to regulate and stabilize the prices of necessities? And what were the results achieved by these methods?

The author has gathered from American and British price records a mass of data on the fluctuations in prices of staple articles. He has also brought together a compilation of views on the exact reasons for these fluctuations. He quotes economists, statisticians, bankers and journalists. The causes assigned cover the familiar fields of artificial scarcity, profiteering, the shifting of labor and capital to war industries, the breakdown of transport and means of communication, the lack of raw materials, the failure of fuel supply, labor disturbances, currency inflation, bond issues, extravagance in living, wasteful methods of production and to some extent the unintelligent handling of price regulation by government.

Among the methods of regulation described are: the voluntary fixing of prices by conferences between the principal producers and government representatives, the organization of producers and dealers by the licensing system combined with stimulation of production and the wholesale education of the public to cooperate with the licensing machinery and to practice economy, as exemplified by the United States Food Administration, the arbitrary fixing of a price by government authority, and the prosecution of profiteers. These have succeeded in about the order named.

The author concludes "that government price fixing during the War was guided little by economic principles. It was not uniform, either in its objects or in its methods, feeling its way from case to case. . It might be termed opportunist." This is certainly a mild inference to be drawn from the materials presented. One might well wish that the author instead of contenting himself with this inadequate conclusion, had arranged his materials more systematically and had presented more valuable inductions from them. One such induction might be that the results of government price regulation during the War varied largely according to whether the attempt was made solely to reduce prices, or to stimulate production,—where attention was concentrated too heavily on mere reduction or maintenance of low prices, production was discouraged, artificial scarcity or panic created, and higher prices were forced because of diminished production. Where the attention was focused more clearly upon stimulating production the supply was enlarged even at the cost of an original increase in prices, and within a reasonable time prices were stabilized and larger supply created. If this method was combined with an intelligent and statesmanlike campaign of popular education along patriotic lines, a fairly satisfactory price control and an adequate supply were both secured. Mr. Hoover's experience seems to demonstrate this conclusively.

*James T. Young*

CASES ON THE LAW OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND PERSONS. (Third Edition). By Edwin H. Woodruff, Dean of the College of Law in Cornell University, Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1920, pp. 753.

The first Edition of Dean Woodruff's collection of cases on this subject was published in 1897 and the second in 1905. In the fifteen years that have elapsed since the second edition there have been many changes, statutory and otherwise, in the law of the various states in regard to the subjects considered